



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	El Cariso Community Chipping		
PROJECT LOCATION	APN#386090010 Portions of NW ¼ of Section 16, R5WT6S, SBB&M.	COUNTY	Riverside
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Gregg Bratcher, Unit Forester		
ADDRESS	P.O Box 2097 Idyllwild, CA 92549	PHONE	951-659-3335

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project goal is to mitigate the impact that a wildland fire would have in the community of El Cariso near Lake Elsinore, located in southwest Riverside County, should the existing dead fuel load not be reduced. The hazardous fuel material consisting of snow breakages will be transported by private property owners to a centralized location on US Forest Service property - APN#386090010- to be chipped by CAL FIRE crews. The project will also remove dead, dying or diseased trees around the structures to increase defensible space. The chosen location for the chipper is a flat portion of the mentioned parcel, which has been used for this type of project scope many times in the past, with existing dirt roads on site. A larger section of bare earth up to half acre will be used as the chipping site. Work will be confined to this area and to the existing roads to minimize ground disturbance. No heavy equipment with the exception of the chipper shall be utilized by crews during treatment of this material. All generated chips will be taken offsite and used for drought mitigation material.

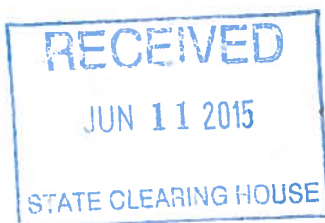
EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: 15308 Class 8 Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment
- ☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- ☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits under portions of Categorical exemption Section 15308, Class 8 – Actions taken by Regulatory Agencies as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment. Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CALFIRE, 25380 Franklin Dr. Idyllwild, CA 92549.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING



Duane Shintaku 6/10/15
Duane Shintaku, Deputy Director Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection